

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A center tube for use with an oil filter cap which has a detent button operable to release said center tube from said filter cap, said center tube comprising:

a tube body having a perforated portion defining a number of orifices defined therein; and

a post having a first end portion ~~which is secured to said tube body~~ and a second end portion which is configured to be contacted by said detent button, wherein said second end portion of said post comprises a spheroid-shaped member configured as a ball; and

a closure wall secured to the tube body and the first end portion so as to be located between the perforated portion and the ball, the closure portion being imperforate so as to close an open end of the perforated portion without use of the post.

11. (Original) The center tube of claim 10, wherein said spheroid-shaped member is configured to be captured by a number of spring arms associated with said oil filter cap.

12. (Original) The center tube of claim 11, wherein said spheroid-shaped member is configured to engage a number of cam surfaces defined in each of said number of spring arms.

13-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The center tube of claim 10, wherein the tube body and the post are integral.

25. (Previously Presented) The center tube of claim 10, wherein the tube body and the post are coaxial.

26. (Previously Presented) The center tube of claim 10, wherein the post comprises a neck-down portion positioned between the first end portion and the spheroid-shaped member.

27. (Previously Presented) The center tube of claim 10, wherein the tube body comprises (i) a perforated sleeve having the number of orifices defined therein and (ii) an imperforate sleeve that is secured to the perforated sleeve and surrounds the post.

28. (Previously Presented) The center tube of claim 27, further comprising an annular flange extending radially outwardly from the imperforate sleeve and surrounding the post.

29. (Previously Presented) The center tube of claim 27, wherein the first end portion is secured to the tube body between the perforated sleeve and the imperforate sleeve.

30. (Currently Amended) A center tube for use with an oil filter cap which has a detent button operable to release said center tube from said filter cap, said center tube comprising:

a tube body having a perforated portion defining a number of orifices defined therein; and

a post that ~~is secured to said tube body~~ and has a spheroid-shaped member configured as a ball to be contacted by said detent button; and

a closure portion secured to the tube body and the post so as to be located between the perforated portion and the ball, the closure portion being imperforate so as to close an open end of the perforated portion without use of the post.

31. (Previously Presented) The center tube of claim 30, wherein the spheroid-shaped member is spaced apart from the tube body.

32. (Previously Presented) The center tube of claim 30, wherein the tube body surrounds the post.

33. (Previously Presented) The center tube of claim 30, wherein the post comprises (i) a base secured to an inner surface of the tube body and (ii) a neck-down portion interconnecting the base and the spheroid-shaped member.

34. (Previously Presented) The center tube of claim 30, wherein the tube body and the post are coaxial and integral.

35. (New) A center tube for use with an oil filter cap which has a detent button operable to release said center tube from said filter cap, said center tube comprising:

a tube body that is adapted to internally support a filter and comprises a number of orifices defined therein; and

a post that is secured to said tube body and comprises a ball shaped as a spheroid and adapted to be contacted by said detent button.

36. (New) The center tube of claim 35, wherein the center tube has a central axis, said ball comprises a spherical axial end surface facing axially relative to said central axis, and said axial end surface is convex and adapted to be mate against a concave surface of said detent button.

37. (New) The center tube of claim 35, wherein said tube body and said post are integral.

38. (New) The center tube of claim 35, wherein said post is not integral with any end cap of said filter.

39. (New) The center tube of claim 35, further comprising an imperforate closure wall that contacts said tube body and said post so as to be secured thereto and closes an open end of a perforated sleeve of said tube body.

40. (New) The center tube of claim 35, wherein at least a portion of said ball is positioned outside of said tube body.